

REMARKS

Claims 1, 8, 15, and 18 have been amended. The claims were amended to better define that which the Applicants consider to be the invention and to correct a typographical error. Claims 4, 11, and 21 have been canceled. Claims 1-3, 5-10, and 12-20 are pending.

**Rejections Under Section 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-3, 9-10, and 15-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yochai et al. (U.S. 6721870) and in view of Kavipurapu (U.S. Pub. 2002/0042861). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 4-7, 11-14, and 18-21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, the Examiner has indicated that the claims 4, 11, and 21 would be allowable if the features of the respective base claims were included.

Consequently, the features of claim 4 has been incorporated into base claim 1, the features of claim 11 has been incorporated into base claim 8, and the features of claim 21 has been incorporated into base claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are now allowable and request a withdrawal of the section 103 rejections. Applicants further submit that all of the dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that the section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

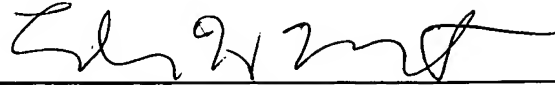
It is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are allowable, and accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If any fees are due in

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/652,997  
Response to Office Action mailed on February 21, 2006  
Amendment dated April 21, 2006

connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit  
Account No. 09-0441.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 21, 2006



---

Edmund H. Mizumoto, Esq.  
Reg. No. 46,938

IBM Corporation  
Almaden Research Center  
Intellectual Property Law C4TA/J2B  
San Jose, CA 95120-6099  
(408) 927-3380